

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A method for producing a cobalt-protein complex comprising:  
the step a) of preparing a solution including  $\text{Co}^{2+}$  ions, a protein, ~~a pH buffer agent and a~~  
 $\text{Co}^{2+}$ -associating agent and HEPES, and having a pH of not less than 8.0 and not more than 8.8;  
and

~~the a~~ step b) of adding an oxidizing agent to the solution and thereby making the protein  
contain particles composed of cobalt.

2-19. (Cancelled)

20. (New) The method for producing a cobalt-protein complex of claim 1, wherein the  
protein is apoferritin.

21. (New) The method for producing a cobalt-protein complex of claim 1, wherein the  
oxidizing agent is  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ .

22. (New) The method for producing a cobalt-protein complex of claim 1, wherein the  
step b) is performed at a temperature of  $70^\circ\text{C}$  or less.

23. (New) The method for producing a cobalt-protein complex of claim 1, wherein the

step b) is performed at a temperature of not less than 40°C and not more than 70°C.

24. (New) The method for producing a cobalt-protein complex of claim 23, wherein the step b) is performed at a temperature of not less than 50°C and not more than 60°C.

25. (New) The method for producing a cobalt-protein complex of claim 1, wherein the protein is a thermophile apoferritin, and the step b) is performed at a temperature of not less than 80°C and not more than 100°C.

26. (New) The method for producing a cobalt-protein complex of claim 1, wherein the particles composed of cobalt includes  $\text{CoO}(\text{OH})$ .